

**STATE CAPITOL**  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0004  
(916) 319-2004

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
3300 DOUGLAS BLVD., #430  
ROSEVILLE, CA 95661  
(916) 774-4430

**WEB**  
[WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/LESLIE](http://WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/LESLIE)

Assembly  
California Legislature



**TIM LESLIE**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT  
August 27, 2004

**COMMITTEES:**  
Vice Chair, WATER, PARKS & WILDLIFE  
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,  
TOURISM & INTERNET MEDIA  
BANKING & FINANCE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & TOXIC MATERIALS  
RULES

**SELECT COMMITTEES:**  
CALIFORNIA WINE  
CALIFORNIA'S FOREIGN TRADE OFFICES  
CANCER DETECTION, PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
CYBERFRAUD

**JOINT COMMITTEES:**  
DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN TO END POVERTY IN CA.  
FAIRS ALLOCATION & CLASSIFICATION

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I respectfully request your veto of Assembly Bill 1957 (Frommer), and Senate Bills 1149 (Ortiz) and SB 1333 (Perata), all of which irresponsibly defy federal law by opening the door for the importation of Canadian drugs into California.

Rising prescription costs are a cause for grave concern, and I am supportive of efforts that address the fundamental problem causing this increase. However, the California Legislature is not the proper venue for enacting these reforms.

Importing drugs is in direct defiance of federal law. Federal law prohibits this practice for very real public health and safety concerns. Generally, the firms that manufacture drugs sold outside of the United States do not have FDA approval. Moreover, even if the manufacturer has FDA approval for a drug, the version produced for foreign markets usually does not meet all of the requirements of the United States approval, and thus it is considered to be unapproved.

I am gravely concerned about this state promoting drugs that could be dangerous and lead to very disturbing unintended consequences. Health and Human Services Secretary Thompson has noted that "opening our borders to re-imported drugs potentially could increase the flow of counterfeit drugs, cheap foreign copies of FDA-approved drugs, expired and contaminated drugs, and drugs stored under inappropriate and unsafe conditions. In light of the anthrax attacks of (fall, 2001), that's a risk we simply cannot take." And it is a risk this state should not undertake.

For further evidence of the dangers this drug importation poses, one only has to look to a recent investigation conducted by the U.S. Customs and the FDA. This investigation "found that 88% (1,019 of 1,153) of imported drugs contained unapproved drugs, such as mislabeled, misbranded, expired, and mishandled drugs that might cause patient health problems." This is not the type of health care Californians deserve nor is it the type this Legislature should be promoting.

Again, I respectfully request that you veto AB 1957 and SBs 1149 and 1333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Leslie".

**TIM LESLIE**  
Assemblyman, Fourth District